

their priorities as a delegate to the California Teachers Association's State Council. Jeanette is tireless in her efforts to engage others and ensure that everyone in her community has a place to express their beliefs and take part in the democratic process. She currently serves on her county's Democratic Central Committee where she promotes accountable leadership and encourages civic engagement. Jeanette aspires to be a leader in her community who listens to the needs of everyone. Recently she has been reaching out to her neighbors and peers to have conversations on city safety, the importance of neighborhood parks, plans to address poverty, and providing quality education to future generations. Jeanette's years of service as an educator and community advocate are an inspiration to all who know her.

Robin Ziegenmeyer is an enthusiastic community servant who has made significant contributions to programs benefitting local children and families. Robin has coached little league, organized school field trips, and provided digital media for school, sports, and community organizations in Sutter. As a dedicated member of the Sutter Youth Organization, Robin works with the community to maintain the foundation along with its recreational centers and philanthropic events. Robin's work on behalf of the Sutter Youth Organization has allowed the center to be renovated and updated, providing facilities where youth can gather to play sports, train, and swim recreationally. Her work has benefitted countless members of the community, enabling a beloved city institution to flourish. Robin is a kind, generous, and enthusiastic leader in her community whose work will leave a lasting legacy.

I congratulate each of them and commend them for their work. I am inspired by them and firmly believe when women succeed, America succeeds.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, on October 2, 2020, I was unable to be present for the recorded votes on Roll Call No. 218. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 1154, Condemning QAnon and rejecting the conspiracy theories it promotes.

HONORING ROBERT "BOBBY" SMITH FOR 34 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bobby" Smith for more than three decades of service to our country, our state, and our community. A U.S. Navy veteran and leader in emergency management, Mr. Smith's public service has spanned more than 34 years.

Mr. Smith began his career in 1985 as a Telecommunicator and Emergency Medical Technician for Guilford County Emergency Medical Services. Over his career in public service he has also served as a firefighter, hazardous materials technician, rescue technician, fire inspector, and Chief Fire Investigator. During his work in Emergency Management he has developed, tested, and implemented numerous response, recovery, mitigation, preparedness and continuity plans, and has been an integral part of emergency operations during national events and disasters. Today, he retires as Director of Emergency Management and Fire Services for Cabarrus County.

Over the years, Mr. Smith has proven to be a strong and effective leader and our region is better and more prepared due to his work. He has served as Unified Incident Commander during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic; coordinated response to a number of declared natural disasters; served as a member of the Domestic Preparedness Region (DPR 7) Committee, North Carolina Emergency Management Association Legislative Committee, and Rowan Cabarrus Community College Emergency Management Advisory Committee; and worked closely with the Local Emergency Planning Committee to develop emergency response infrastructure for local businesses.

An exemplary public servant, Mr. Smith represents the best our nation has to offer and we will look up to his leadership for generations to come. I know I speak for everyone in our community when I say we are truly grateful for his tireless service and cannot thank him enough. I would like to offer my most heartfelt appreciation and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Robert "Bobby" Smith for his 34 years of public service.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNSELFISH WORK OF HILLSBOROUGH COMMISSIONER LESLEY "LES" MILLER, JR.

#### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2020*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration and respect to honor the achievements and unselfish work of Hillsborough Commissioner Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr. and to congratulate him on his retirement. Les' remarkable contributions to our hometown of Tampa have had a tremendous impact on our neighbors and citizens of Florida and is worthy of recognition.

Les was born in Tampa in 1951, graduated from Middleton High School and later served in the United States Air Force as an administrative specialist. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and master's degree in public administration from the University of South Florida (USF) and received an honorary doctorate degree in humane letters from Florida A&M University in 2005. During his academic career, Les served as the First African American President of the Student Government Association and President of the Black Student Union. Before making a switch to political science, Les was a music major and rose to be drum major at Middleton High.

Les' involvement and willingness to serve did not stop after his college career. He also served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1992 to 2000 and as a member in the Florida Senate from 2000 to 2006. Commissioner Miller was the first Democrat in Florida to serve as both Florida House and Senate Minority Leader. His hard work and dedication towards public policy and passion for giving back to his community, has granted him several awards including the Florida Education Association President's Award; the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service Robert W. Saunders Award for Efforts to Promote Civil Rights; the University of South Florida Presidents' Distinguished Citizen Award; the Early Learning Coalition Legislative Excellence Award; Florida League of Cities Legislative Award; and the Florida Housing Coalition Legislative Award.

Les has been an integral part of the growth and development of Moffitt Cancer Center, Florida's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Les was already a cancer survivor before Moffitt opened, but throughout his life, he and his loved ones still needed Moffitt more than he might have imagined. Les has survived three bouts of cancer, and both his wife, Gwen and daughter LeJeane, have twice survived cancer. Through his career in the Florida Legislature, Les made funding Moffitt one of his priority issues. His many accomplishments there, include, a measure he authored to earmark a percentage of Florida's tobacco sales taxes for Moffitt research and patient care. Les continues to give back through Moffitt's annual Men's Health Forum which encourages men regardless race, religion and socioeconomic background to get information and guidance on prostate and men health. Les credits Moffitt for being alive today and has made it a life mission to help the center in any capacity.

Les' relentlessness to fight for what is right inspired him to lead efforts throughout his career, both at the state and local level, for tough laws to stop gun violence and keep guns out of the hands of people like the men who shot his son, Trey. Les' tough and collaborative approach has allowed him success despite strong opposition from special interests and even the Florida Legislature. It passed a law to try to take gun violence efforts from local governments. Les' strength and passion can be seen in his continuing efforts to fight to stop gun violence even in the face of rules that threaten local officials personally who try to protect their communities.

During his tenure as a Commissioner for Hillsborough County, Les has continued to improve the lives of many by continuously fighting for affordable housing, better transportation and protection of the environment. He also served on several Boards and Councils including Aviation Authority, Committee of Six, Expressway Authority, Florida State Fair Authority, HART, Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Visit Tampa Bay, Tourist Development Council and Election Canvassing Board.

Outside of his role as Commissioner, Les continues to be an active voice in civic affairs including being a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. a member of Harrah Temple No. 23, Prince Hall Shriners; a member of the United Supreme Council, 33rd Degree Mason, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliate; Life Member and Past Master of Landmark Lodge No.